II. REMARKS

Applicants submit the foregoing claim amendments and cancellations for the purpose of expediting prosecution of the instant application. The amendments introduce no new matter. Specification support for the amendments is set forth below. Citations to the 1981 specification are to U.S. Patent 4,694,490 which issued from application serial number 06/317,510.

Claims 123, 130-131, 237, 241, 243, 245, 249-250, 289-290 & 293-295 have been amended to recite "at least one" for occurrence of "one" to clarify that the claimed invention is not limited to just "one" of the recited components. No new matter is added by these amendments.

Claims 3, 123, 235, 243 & 255 have been amended to replace the term "contain" (or its variants) with the more conventional transitional term "include" (or its variants). No new matter is added by these amendments.

Claim 2 is amended to correct a minor inadvertency. The support for this claim remains as provided in prior submissions.

The preamble of claim 13 is amended to recite gathering information on the use of signals. Support for this amendment is found in the 1987 specification at page 257 line 24 to page 258 line 19, page 265 line 27 to page 266 line 21, and in the 1981 specification at column 9 lines 53-55. No new matter is added by this amendment.

Claim 122 is amended to replace "resource" with "programming, data, and equipment." Support for this amendment can be found in the 1987 specification at page 312 line 33 through page 313 line 11 and in the 1981 specification at column 15 lines 27-30. No new matter is added by this amendment.

Claim 123 is amended to delete the preamble and introduce a broadcast or cablecast signal in the body of the claim. The support for this claim remains as provided in prior submissions.

Claim 124 is amended to set forth the step of selecting information designating a function performed in respect of a broadcast or cablecast data signal. Support for this amendment can be found in the 1987 specification at page 12 lines 33-34, page 14 line 35 through page 15 line 2, page 49 line 26 through page 50 line 4, page 174 lines 4-23, and page 322 line 19 through page 323 line 11. The 1981 specification supports this amendment at column 15 lines 57-62. No new matter is added by this amendment.

Claims 125-126 & 131 are amended to recite "at least one of said programming, data, equipment and said control signal" to conform to the recited antecedent. The support for these claims remains as provided in prior submissions.

Claims 127-129 are amended to delete the preamble and to introduce elements previously recited in the preamble into the body of the claim. The support for these claims remains as provided in prior submissions.

Claim 130 is amended to recite "communicated evidence information" to conform to the recited antecedent. The support for this claim remains as provided in prior submissions.

Claim 198 is amended to set forth that an information transmission includes at least one processor instruction that is compared with user input, and based on the comparison, processing of the processor instruction is authorized. Support for this amendment is found in the 1987 specification at page 471 lines 26-34 and page 472 lines 13-33. The 1981 specification supports this amendment at column 20 lines 27-37. No new matter is added by this amendment.

Claim 216 is amended to delete the adjective "downloadable" with respect to processor instructions. The support for this claim remains as provided in prior submissions.

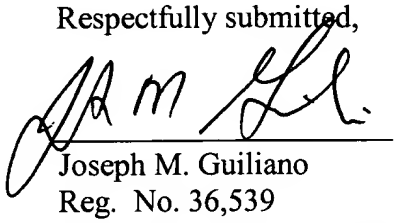
III. CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request consideration of the foregoing amendments and allowance of the instant application.

If the Examiner has any remaining informalities to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such informalities.

Date: March 8, 2002

Respectfully submitted,



FISH & NEAVE
1251 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10020

Joseph M. Guiliano
Reg. No. 36,539
Phone No. 212-596-9000
Fax No. 212-596-9090

Appendix A

Applicants' Marked-Up Claim Language

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2. (**Three Times Amended**) A method of gathering information on the use of a control signal at a receiver station, said receiver station having a plurality of inputs, a processor, and [a] at least one controllable device, said receiver station transferring said gathered information to a remote station, said method comprising the steps of:

identifying a control signal;

searching for said control signal in an input data stream based on said step of identifying;

passing said control signal from said processor to said at least one controllable device based on said step of searching; and

communicating information on the passing of said control signal from said receiver station to said remote station.

3. (**Amended**) The method of Claim 2 wherein said receiver station is a television receiver station, said television receiver station receiving signals [containing] including television programming information.

4. (Unchanged) The method of Claim 2 wherein said control signal in said step of identifying is directed to an external device.

5. (Unchanged) The method of Claim 4 wherein said external device is a storage device.

6. (Unchanged) The method of Claim 4 wherein said external device is a switch.

7. (Unchanged) The method of Claim 4 wherein said external device is a building facilities operating device.

8. (Unchanged) The method of Claim 4 wherein said external device is a tuner.

9. (Unchanged) The method of Claim 4 wherein said external device is a computer.

10. (Unchanged) The method of Claim 4 wherein said external device is a recorder.

11. (Unchanged) The method of Claim 4 wherein said external device is a printer.

12. (Unchanged) The method of Claim 4 wherein said external device is a disk.

13. **(Four Times Amended)** A multimedia receiving apparatus for gathering information on the use of [a signal at said apparatus] signals comprising:

a plurality of input ports for receiving multimedia signals;

an output port;

a processor operatively connected to said plurality of input ports and said output port; said processor programmed for:

identifying a signal from at least one of said plurality of input ports;

passing said signal from said processor to said output port based on said step of identifying;

communicating information of the passing of said identified signal based on said step of passing.

14. (Unchanged) The apparatus of Claim 13 wherein said processor is programmed for:

storing said information on the passing of said identified signal on a storage device before said step of communicating; and

delaying said step of communicating based on a predetermined condition.

15. **(Cancelled.)**

16. (Unchanged) The apparatus of Claim 13 wherein said processor is further programmed for communicating information from said apparatus to said remote data collection station using a telephone interface.

17. (Unchanged) The apparatus of Claim 13 where said output port is connected to an external device.

18. (Unchanged) The method of Claim 2 further comprising the step of:

generating a bill for the use of said control signal at said remote station based on the identification and passing of said control signal at said receiver station.

19. (Unchanged) The method of Claim 2 further comprising the steps of:

storing information on the passing of said identified control signal on a storage device at said receiver station before said step of communicating; and

delaying said step of communicating for a predetermined time.

20. (Unchanged) The apparatus of Claim 13 wherein said output port is connected to an internal device.

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22. **(Cancelled.)**

23. **(Cancelled.)**

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50. (Unchanged) A method for delivery of informative materials in a communications network having a transmitter station and a plurality of receiver stations, each said of receiver stations having a display, a processor and a storage device, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving at each of said plurality of receiver stations from said communication network a television program ;

receiving at each of said plurality of receiver stations from said communication network said informative materials;

decoding said informative materials at each of said plurality of receiver stations;

storing said informative materials from said step of decoding at said storage device of each of said receiver stations;

recording use of said informative materials at each of said plurality of receiver stations; and

reporting the record of use of said informative materials from said step of recording from each of said plurality of receiver stations to said transmitter station.

51. (Unchanged) The system of claim 50 comprising the further steps of;

buffering the records of use of said informative materials at each of said plurality of receiver stations at said storage device in each of said plurality of receiver stations;

autodialing a modem from each of said plurality of receiver stations to said transmitter station in response to a buffer in said each of said storage device reaching a predetermined amount.

52. (Unchanged) The system of claim 50 wherein said informative materials are encoded in a television signal .

53. (Unchanged) The system of claim 50 wherein said informative materials are encoded on a carrier wave.

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119. **(Cancelled.)**

120. **(Cancelled.)**

121. **(Cancelled.)**

122. **(Amended)** A method of gathering information on the use of at least one of [a resource] programming, data, equipment and a control signal at a receiver station, said receiver station having a processor and a controlled device, said receiver station transferring said gathered information to a remote station, said method comprising the steps of:

(1) identifying said at least one of [a resource] programming, data, equipment and a control signal;

(2) monitoring said at least one of [said resource and said] programming, data, equipment and a control signal;

(3) storing a record of the use of said at least one of [said resource and said] programming, data, equipment and a control signal from said step of monitoring; and

(4) communicating information evidencing said use of said at least one of [said resource and said] programming, data, equipment and a control signal from said step of storing a record from said receiver station to a remote station.

123. **(Amended)** The method of claim 122, [wherein at least one of said resource and said control signal is of a broadcast and a cablecast television signal, said method] further comprising the steps of:

selecting information designating programming [contained] included in at least one of [said] a broadcast and [said] a cablecast television signal; and

communicating said selected information from said step of selecting to said remote station.

124. (**Amended**) The method of claim 122, [wherein at least one of said resource and said control signal is of a broadcast and a cablecast data signal, said method] further comprising the steps of:

selecting information designating a function performed in respect of [at least one of said resource and said control signal] at least one of a broadcast and a cablecast data signal; and

communicating said selected information from said step of selecting to said remote station.

125. (**Amended**) The method of claim 122, further comprising the step:

processing information designating a source of said at least one of said [resource] programming, data, equipment and said control signal; and

communicating said source information from said step of processing to said remote station.

126. (**Amended**) The method of claim 122, further comprising the step:

processing information designating a time in respect of said at least one of said [resource] programming, data, equipment and said control signal; and

communicating said time information from said step of processing to said remote station.

127. **(Amended)** The method of claim 122, [wherein said identified at least one of said resource and said control signal is a resource which performs one of the functions of communicating and responding to a plurality of control signals, said method] further comprising the steps of:

selecting information designating at least one of [said] a plurality of control signals; and

communicating said selected information from said step of selecting to said remote station.

128. **(Amended)** The method of claim 122, [wherein said identified at least one of said resource and said control signal is a control signal which performs one of the functions of processing and communicating a plurality of resources, said method] further comprising the steps of:

selecting information designating at least one of [said] a plurality of resources; and

communicating said selected information from said step of selecting to said remote station.

129. **(Amended)** The method of claim 122, [wherein said identified at least one of said resource and said control signal is a signal which is communicated to a plurality of devices, said method] further comprising the steps of:

selecting information designating at least one of [said] a plurality of devices; and

communicating said selected information from said step of selecting to said remote station.

130. **(Twice Amended)** The method of claim 122, wherein [the stored] said communicated evidence information performs at least one of the functions of identifying and designating at least one of:

(1) a mass medium program;

(2) a proper use of programming;

(3) a transmission station;

(4) a receiver station;

(5) a network;

(6) a broadcast station;

(7) a channel on a cable system;

(8) a time of transmission;

(9) a unique identifier datum;

(10) a source or supplier of data;

(11) at least one of a distributor and an advertisement; and

(12) an indication of a payment obligation.

131. **(Amended)** The method of claim 122, wherein [at least one of said resource and said control signal is received from a local source,] said method further [comprising] comprises the step of:

storing at least one of a code and a datum which is operative to identify at least one of said [resource] programming, data, equipment and said control signal.

132. (Unchanged) A method for gathering an identifying signal from a plurality of identifying signals generated by passing a control signal at a receiver station to at least one controlled device, said receiver station having an input and an output, a processor and a storage device, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving a control signal at said receiver station;

detecting said control signal at said receiver station;

passing said control signal from a detector to said at least one controlled device;

generating based on said step of passing said control signal, a plurality of signals that identify characteristics of said control signal in said step of passing;

selecting at least one identifying signal from said plurality of identifying signals based on said step of generating said identifying signals; and

storing said at least one identifying signal based on said step of selecting said at least one identifying signal in said storage device.

133. (Unchanged) The method of claim 132, further comprising the step of communicating said stored at least one identifying signal based on said step of storing from said receiver station to an external data collection station.

134. (Unchanged) The method of claim 133, further comprising the step of:

generating a bill one of at and from said at least one remote data collection station based on said at least one identifying signal communicated to said external data collection station.

135. (Unchanged) The method of claim 132, wherein said at least one identifying signal identifies a source of said control signal.

136. (Unchanged) The method of claim 132, wherein said at least one identifying signal identifies a supplier of said control signal.

137. (Unchanged) The method of claim 132, wherein said at least one identifying signal identifies a content of said control signal.

138. (Unchanged) The method of claim 132, wherein said at least one identifying signal identifies one of a time and a period of time.

139. (Unchanged) The method of claim 132, wherein said at least one identifying signal identifies a function performed at said receiver station in consequence of said control signal.

140. (Unchanged) The method of claim 132, wherein said at least one identifying signal identifies programming outputted at said receiver station in consequence of said control signal.

141. (Unchanged) The method of claim 132, wherein said at least one identifying signal identifies apparatus controlled at said receiver station in consequence of said control signal.

142. (Unchanged) The method of claim 132, further comprising the step of discarding at least one of said plurality of identifying signals.

143. (Unchanged) The method of claim 142, wherein said discarded at least one of said plurality of identifying signals includes a duplicate identifying signal.

144. (Unchanged) The method of claim 132, wherein said step of generating includes creating said at least one identifying signal by appending digital information.

145. (Unchanged) The method of claim 144, wherein said appended digital information includes a first of said plurality of signals that identify characteristics.

146. (Unchanged) The method of claim 132, wherein said step of generating includes counting.

147. (Unchanged) The method of claim 132, wherein said step of generating results in a record.

148. **(Cancelled.)**

149. **(Cancelled.)**

150. **(Cancelled.)**

151. **(Cancelled.)**

152. **(Cancelled.)**

153. **(Cancelled.)**

154. **(Cancelled.)**

155. (Unchanged) A media receiving apparatus for gathering at least one identifying signal from a plurality of identifying signals comprising:

input apparatus for receiving media signals;

an output port;

a storage device;

a processor operatively connected to said input apparatus, said output port, and said storage device, said processor programmed for:

receiving a media signal from said input apparatus;

detecting a control signal from said media signal;

passing said control signal from said media signal, to said output port, said output port transferring said control signal to an external device;

generating said plurality of identifying signals that identify characteristics of said control signal from the step of passing said control signal;

selecting said at least one identifying signal from said plurality of identifying signals from said step of generating said plurality of identifying signals; and

storing said at least one identifying signal from said step of selecting at least one said identifying signal in said storage device.

156. (Unchanged) The apparatus of claim 155, further comprising:

a telephone interface operatively connected to said processor;

said processor further programmed for:

communicating said at least one identifying signal from said storage device to an external data collection station with said telephone interface.

157. (Unchanged) The apparatus of claim 155, wherein said output port is connected to said external device.

158. (Unchanged) The apparatus of claim 157, wherein said external device is selected from a group consisting of:

a heater, an air conditioner, a radio receiver, a player, a computer, a storage device, a tuner, and a printer.

159. **(Cancelled.)**

160. **(Cancelled.)**

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196. **(Cancelled.)**

197. **(Cancelled.)**

198. **(Twice Amended)** A method for tracking results of a comparison of control signals at a receiver station in a communications network, said network having at least one transmitter station and at least one receiver station, said at least one receiver station having at least one processor, at least one storage device, and at least one input device adapted to receive user input, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving at said at least one input device at least one user input based on a request for user input;

storing said at least one user input at said at least one storage device;

receiving at said at least one receiver station at least one information transmission from said at least one transmitter station, said at least one information transmission including at least one processor [instructions] instruction;

comparing [information stored at] said at least one processor instruction with said stored at least one user input based on said received at least one information transmission;

authorizing processing at said at least one receiver station of said at least one processor [instructions] instruction based on the result from said step of comparing; and

recording a result of said step of comparing at said at least one storage device.

199. (Unchanged) The method of claim 198, wherein said step of authorizing processing of said processor instructions employs an instruct to decrypt signal .

200. **(Cancelled.)**

201. **(Cancelled.)**

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212. **(Cancelled.)**

213. **(Cancelled.)**

214. **(Cancelled.)**

215. **(Cancelled.)**

216. **(Twice Amended)** A method of processing signals at a receiver station having a computer, a programmable controller, and an output device, said computer being programmed to store user data and communicate information based on said stored user data, said programmable controller being programmed to control said receiver station in response to instructions from a remote supplier, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving [downloadable] processor instructions;

(b) detecting said [downloadable] processor instructions;

(c) passing a portion of said [downloadable] processor instructions selectively to a first apparatus;

(d) executing a portion of said [downloadable] processor instructions at said programmable controller;

(e) controlling said computer in accordance with said [downloadable] processor instructions; and

(f) storing information evidencing a function performed by or initiated by said first apparatus in consequence of [downloadable] processor instructions having been passed selectively to said first apparatus.

217. **(Cancelled.)**

218. **(Cancelled.)**

219. **(Cancelled.)**

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233. **(Cancelled.)**

234. **(Cancelled.)**

235. **(Amended)** A method of processing signals at a receiver station, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving an information transmission at a receiver station, said information transmission [containing] including television programming and a plurality of embedded signals;

detecting and identifying at least one of said plurality of embedded signals in said information transmission;

selecting a controllable receiver station apparatus based on information within said at least one identified embedded signal;

passing said at least one identified embedded signal to or within at least one reprogrammable device at said receiver station;

controlling said controllable receiver station apparatus based on instructions within said at least one identified embedded signal; and

storing information evidencing said step of controlling.

236. (Unchanged) The method of claim 235, wherein said step of storing comprises storing some information that evidences a function performed by or initiated by said controllable receiver station apparatus in consequence of said at least one identified embedded signal having been passed to said controllable receiver station apparatus.

237. **(Twice Amended)** The method of claim 235, wherein said stored information evidences <u>at least</u> one from the group consisting of:

(a) an output at said receiver station;

(b) a result of processing performed by said controllable receiver station apparatus;

(c) an identification of programming processed by said controllable receiver station apparatus;

(d) a time or date of a function performed by said controllable receiver station apparatus;

(e) an input received by said controllable receiver station apparatus;

(f) a source of input to said controllable receiver station apparatus;

(g) a device controlled by said controllable receiver station apparatus;

(h) a step of decrypting or otherwise enabling a presentation ;

(i) an output device of said receiver station; and

(j) a time or date of an output at said receiver station.

238. (Unchanged) The method of claim 235, wherein said at least one identified embedded signal instructs the receiver station to execute a conditional operation of a command signal, said method further comprising the steps of:

determining on the basis of stored information that said command signal is present; and

executing said conditional operation.

239. (Unchanged) The method of claim 238, further comprising the steps of:

storing information evidencing a passing of a second of said at least one identified embedded signal to a processor; and

storing information evidencing a function performed by or initiated by one of a first of said at least one identified embedded signal and said second of said at least one identified embedded signal.

240. (Unchanged) The method of claim 235, wherein at least one identified embedded signal instructs the receiver station to perform a function in response to a command signal, said function selected from the group consisting of:

(a) controlling a tuner to tune to a selected programming, data, or command signal transmission;

(b) controlling a switch or transmission device to communicate programming, data, or a command signal from a selected input source to a selected output source;

(c) controlling a decryptor, descrambler, or enabling device to decrypt, descramble, or enable selected information or to decrypt, descramble, or enable information in consequence of a selected command signal;

(d) controlling an output device to prepare to output selected programming or data; and

(e) controlling a processor, controller, or computer to respond to one or more selected command signals or instructions or to process one or more selected data.

241. (**Amended**) The method of claim 235, wherein the receiver station identifies a plurality of embedded signals each of which designates the availability of at least one unit of data, programming, or command signals, said method further comprising the steps of:

passing each identified embedded signal to a receiver station apparatus that selects data, programming or command signals of interest to a viewer, listener, or user;

controlling said last named apparatus to select at least one or more units of data, programming, or command signals in response to at least a first identified embedded signal; and

storing some information that evidences the selection of a particular unit of data, programming, or command signals or of a particular carrier transmission, with said particular unit or particular carrier transmission being selected in consequence of an identified embedded signal.

242. (Unchanged) The method of claim 241, including the additional step of:

storing in consequence of each identified embedded signal, information that evidences availability of some data or programming at said receiver station or receiving of a particular information transmission.

243. (**Twice Amended**) The method of claim 242, wherein said stored information evidences at least one from the group consisting of:

(a) an origin of a transmission;

(b) a subject matter of some information [contained] included in a transmission;

(c) an identification of some programming [contained] included in a transmission;

(d) a time or date that a transmission is transmitted or received;

(e) a supplier or owner of some programming [contained] included in a transmission;

(f) a step of processing or controlling performed at a transmission station that communicates signals to said receiver station;

(g) some programming that is not processed by or outputted at said receiver station;

(h) an input received by said receiver station; and

(i) a source of input to or at said receiver station.

244. (Unchanged) The method of claim 235, wherein the receiver station stores information that evidences a second passing of said at least one identified embedded signal.

245. **(Amended)** The method of claim 244, wherein a storage device stores data, programming, or one or more control signals and the evidence of said second passing is selected from the group consisting of:

(a) two or more sources of an embedded signal, with at least one of said sources designating a storage device; and

(b) two or more different times designating an embedded signal, with at least one of said times designating time shifting.

246. (Unchanged) The method of claim 235, wherein a viewer, listener, or user inputs a command signal or wherein said step of storing includes storing some information that evidences a function performed by or initiated by a user at said station, with said step of storing being in consequence of said at least one identified embedded signal having been passed to the first selected apparatus.

247. (Unchanged) The method of claim 246, wherein said information that evidences a function is selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a purchase made by a viewer, listener, or user ;

(b) the identity of a the presence of someone at said receiver station;

(c) a reaction of a user to an output;

(d) programming presented user or at said receiver station in response to an input; and

(e) decrypting or otherwise enabling of a presentation authorized at said receiver station.

248. (Unchanged) The method of claim 235, wherein:

said step of detecting and identifying comprises the steps of:

detecting digital information in said information transmission; and

identifying a signal in said digital information;

said step of passing comprises at least one of the steps of:

passing information in said signal; and

passing one or more preprogrammed data in response to said signal information;

said step of controlling is selected from the group consisting of:

(a) causing said controllable receiver station apparatus to respond to passed information; and

(b) causing said controllable receiver station apparatus to respond to said passed data; and

said step of storing comprises the steps of:

selecting some information in one of said signal and a second signal; and

storing said selected information.

249. **(Twice Amended)** The method of claim 235, wherein said receiver station communicates evidence information to a remote data collection station, said remote station being a billing or monitoring station or a station that collects information communicated in a signal transmission, said method further including a step selected from the group consisting of:

(a) discarding some evidence information detected in a signal transmission at a time when said receiver station is not communicating evidence information to said remote station;

(b) selecting at least one or a plurality of remote stations to communicate information to;

(c) initiating communication with a remote station; and

(d) causing a remote station to process information detected at said receiver station.

250. **(Twice Amended)** The method of claim 235, wherein a processor assembles the evidence information into a signal record, said method further having at least one step selected from the group consisting of:

(a) discarding some stored evidence information;

(b) modifying a time datum in a signal record in response to evidence information;

(c) initiating a signal record in response to evidence information;

(d) selecting a stored datum of evidence in response to information detected in a signal transmission;

(e) selecting an evidence datum to store in a signal record; and

(f) communicating evidence information to an remote station based on a precondition or communicating evidence information to a memory location that stores signal records.

251. (Unchanged) The method of claim 235, wherein a processor assembles the evidence information into a signal record or communicates evidence information to a remote station and said at least one identified embedded signal includes a record assembly or communication instruction, said method further comprising the steps of:

passing said record assembly or communication instruction to said processor .

252. (Unchanged) The method of claim 251, wherein said last named processor is said selected receiver station apparatus and the passing of the said at least one identified embedded signal is evidenced in the assembled or communicated evidence information.

253. (Unchanged) The method of claim 235, wherein a plurality of receiver station apparatus communicate evidence information to a processor that assembles evidence information into a signal record, said method further comprising the steps of:

(a) buffering evidence information communicated from said plurality of apparatus;

(b) identifying specific ones of said plurality of apparatus as sources of specific data of said communicated evidence information;

(c) causing one or more of said receiver station apparatus to communicate evidence information in response to a control signal or to an embedded signal;

(d) outputting a control signal to a controlled device and evidence information to the processor in response to said at least one identified embedded signal ; and

(e) controlling one or more of said receiver station apparatus as to a fashion of receiving, detecting, or identifying embedded signals or evidence information.

254. (Unchanged) The method of claim 235, wherein said receiver station further comprises a data collection device for collecting stored evidence information, said method further comprising the step of:

causing a processor, controller, or computer to pass stored evidence information to said data collection device in response to said at least one identified embedded signal.

255. **(Twice Amended)** The method of claim 235, wherein said receiver station comprises a memory location for storing information of programming availability and said selected receiver station apparatus comprises a processor or computer for selecting programming to receive, store, process, or present to a subscriber, wherein:

said step of detecting and identifying further comprises the steps of:

(1) detecting a signal [containing] <u>including</u> information of programming availability;

(2) identifying the information of programming availability;

said step of passing further comprises the step of:

passing the information of programming availability to the processor or computer; and

said step of controlling further comprises the step of:

causing the processor or computer to select available programming.

256. (Unchanged) The method of claim 235, wherein said receiver station comprises an output device and said selected receiver station apparatus comprises a computer , wherein:

said step of passing comprises the step of passing an instruct-to-output signal to the computer;

said step of controlling comprises the step of causing the computer to output information stored in the computer's memory to said output device .

257. (Unchanged) The method of claim 235, wherein said selected receiver station apparatus includes a computer wherein:

said step of detecting and identifying comprises the step of detecting and identifying an instruct-to-generate signal;

said step of passing comprises the step of passing said instruct-to-generate signal to said computer; and

said step of controlling comprises the step of causing the computer to process information stored in the computer's memory in response to the instruct-to-generate signal and thereby generate one or more receiver specific data.

258. **(Cancelled.)**

259. **(Cancelled.)**

260. **(Cancelled.)**

261. **(Cancelled.)**

262. **(Cancelled.)**

263. **(Cancelled.)**

264. **(Cancelled.)**

265. **(Cancelled.)**

266. **(Cancelled.)**

267. **(Cancelled.)**

268. **(Cancelled.)**

269. **(Cancelled.)**

270. **(Cancelled.)**

271. **(Cancelled.)**

272. **(Cancelled.)**

273. **(Cancelled.)**

274. **(Cancelled.)**

275. **(Cancelled.)**

276. **(Cancelled.)**

277. **(Cancelled.)**

278. **(Cancelled.)**

279. **(Cancelled.)**

280. (Unchanged) A method of collecting and reporting electronic distribution of data programming material in a communications network having a transmitter station and a receiver station, said transmitter station having an input device for inputting a command, a processor for distributing said data programming material and collecting billing records and a storage device to store said data programming material, said receiver station having apparatus to receive said billing records, said method comprising the steps of:

inputting a command at said input device at said transmitter station;

distributing said data programming material from said storage device at said transmitter station in response to said command from said step of inputting a command;

creating a billing record at said transmitter station to evidence use of said data programming material at said transmitter station;

transmitting said billing record from said step of creating a billing record to said receiver station over a data network; and

receiving said billing record from said step of transmitting said billing record at said receiver station from said data network.

281. (Unchanged) The method of claim 280, comprising the further steps of:

storing said billing record from said step of creating a billing record at said transmitter station to accumulate a plurality of billing records; and

transmitting said plurality of billing records in response to said accumulated plurality of billing records reaching a predetermined amount.

282. (Unchanged) The method of claim 280, comprising the further steps of:

autodialing said receiver station from said transmitter station to establish a datalink between said receiver station and said transmitter station in response to said step of transmitting said billing record.

283. (Unchanged) The method of claim 280, comprising the further step of:

establishing a datalink from said receiver station to said transmitter station in response to a signal at said receiver station.

284. (Unchanged) The method of claim 280, 281, 282 or 283, wherein said data programming material includes computer programming material.

285. (Unchanged) The method of claim 280, 281, 282 or 283 wherein said data programming material is distributed based on an obligation to pay and said billing record reflects electronic distribution of said data programming material.

286. (Unchanged) The method of claim 280, 281, 282 or 283 wherein said data programming material includes television programming.

287. (Unchanged) The method of claim 280, wherein said communication network comprises a telephone communications network.

288. (Unchanged) The method of claim 280, comprising the further step of:

generating a bill at said receiver station in response to said step of receiving said billing record.

289. **(Twice Amended)** A method for collecting and reporting electronic distribution of programming material in a communication network having a transmitter station and a plurality of receiver stations, said transmitter station having apparatus to collect data from said plurality of receiver stations, each at least one of said plurality of receiver stations having a processor for detecting identification signals and establishing local use of said programming material and a storage device to record said local use of said programming material, said method comprising the steps of:

transmitting programming material from said transmitter station to a plurality of receiver stations;

transmitting identification signals that correspond to said programming material transmitted in said step of transmitting programming material; and

receiving data from each of said plurality of receiver stations that reflect local use of said programming material transmitted in said step of transmitting programming material,

wherein said data include at least a portion of said identification signals.

290. **(Twice Amended)** The method of claim 289, comprising the further step of:

generating a bill at said transmitter station to reflect use of said transmitted programming material at at least one of said plurality of receiver stations.

291. (Unchanged) The method of claim 289, wherein said step of receiving is from a telephone communication network.

292. (Unchanged) The method of claim 289, wherein at least a portion of said programming material is distributed based on an obligation to pay.

293. **(Twice Amended)** The method of claim 289, wherein at least one of said identification signals in said step of transmitting identification signals is embedded into said programming material from said step of transmitting programming material.

294. **(Twice Amended)** The method of claim 289, wherein at least one of said identification signals is encoded on a radio frequency carrier, said radio frequency carrier transmitted concurrently with said programming material from said step of transmitting programming material.

295. **(Twice Amended)** The method of claim 289, wherein at least one of said identification signals is encoded on a television frequency carrier, said radio frequency carrier transmitted concurrently with said programming material from said step of transmitting programming material.

296. **(Cancelled.)**

297. **(Cancelled.)**

298. **(Cancelled.)**

299. **(Cancelled.)**

300. **(Cancelled.)**

301. **(Cancelled.)**

302. **(Cancelled.)**